

rush in reforming the electric utility industry could result in large industrial users seeing greater benefits while residential users and small businesses would pay for that benefit.

We must honor past regulatory schemes and commitments and allow recovery of stranded investments. Electric utilities incurred "stranded costs" under a regulatory scheme not of their choosing. These utilities made long-term decisions based upon decades of regulation. To deny industry the recovery of these costs would go against the fairness I spoke of earlier. That being said, lower costs should be fostered by real deregulation and industrial and regulatory innovation, not by simply shifting costs. We should not merely "reshuffle the deck" to see who pays.

A significant hurdle to deregulation is the diverse nature of power generators, including public power providers, municipalities, investor-owned utilities, and power marketing associations. Reconciling these disparate views will be a monumental task, yet fairness demands that we produce a level playing field for all energy providers and transmitters.

So reforming the energy industry on a Federal level demands clarifying, simply clarifying the roles of the Federal and State governments. Where does the Federal responsibility end and the States' begin? The diverse situation among the States adds to these reform difficulties. Some States have always supported regulation, others have taken progressive stances, while still others, like my home State of Florida, enjoy the benefits of moderately priced electricity and see little need for major reform.

Eliminating the barriers to entry into the electric market is fundamental to this reform. We must repeal the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, PURPA, and the Public Utility Holding Company Act, PUHCA, to ensure that any transition to retail competition is truly competitive. The entire efficacy of PURPA centered on the supposition that producing electricity would become more expensive. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it has become cheaper. Thanks to PURPA, Americans will pay \$38 billion in higher electric bills over the next 10 years than they should.

Deregulation of the electric industry requires consideration of a myriad of factors. The stakes are very high, but so are the benefits. To that end, I am introducing today a piece of Federal legislation that will change all that. It is called the Electric Energy Empowerment Act of 1999. It will not mandate the States to act, but instead will empower and encourage them to enact measures providing these customers retail competition and choice.

My legislation amends the Federal Power Act to clarify jurisdictional boundaries between state and federal authorities, thus empowering the states to enact competitive retail electricity markets. As an incentive for the states to move forward, the legislation includes a reciprocity condition. Further, the legislation elimi-

nates the existing federal barriers to competition: it encourages the establishment of independent transmission system operators, and it deregulates the wholesale market by making the FERC wholesale open access rules applicable to non-jurisdictional entities.

I think everyone will agree that we are inevitably moving toward an electricity industry based on competition, market force, and lower rates. This is certainly my goal as I introduce this legislation today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Charlie Martin, Indian Rocks Baptist Church, Largo, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we humbly pray for Your blessings upon our people today. America needs what only You can provide. We want Your will, we need Your direction, we desire Your peace, and we ask Your protection for all people. We read where You said, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

Please bring healing to America and to all of our world. For our leaders, O God, grant wisdom for each decision and bless their families with Your love. This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO PASTOR CHARLIE MARTIN

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to introduce today the chaplain who delivered our opening prayer. Pastor Charlie Martin is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, which is in Largo, Florida, which is right in the heart of the Tenth Congressional District that I have the privilege to represent.

Like many of my colleagues, I have an opportunity to visit with many churches throughout the district and throughout our State, and I must say that I have found no one who is more inspiring in their message and delivery of the Bible than Pastor Charlie Martin. He is a dynamic religious leader, and he makes going to church a lot of fun.

He delivers his messages in such an entertaining way that people clamor to come to the church to the effect that he has to have at least three services every Sunday morning. He is respected and loved in our community. His ministry is very unique. He reaches out to everyone. He has a community outreach program that goes far beyond the county limits of our county back home. It is worldwide, in effect.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention an example of the worldwide outreach. Many of us know the problems of the people in Bosnia, the refugees and orphans that are housed with very little clothing, very little supplies. We called this to the attention of Pastor Charlie and he and the members of the church turned out in large numbers, collected an airplane full of shoes and sweaters and supplies for babies, and we had it delivered to Bosnia to the orphanages. That is just one example of many, many more.

As I said, Pastor Charlie is the pastor of our people, he is our pastor at home, and wherever I go throughout my congressional district, people are approaching me constantly saying, "Congressman, it is nice to see you in Pastor Charlie's church," or "Congressman, I am a member of Pastor Charlie's church," and everyone knows who Pastor Charlie is.

Now my colleagues have had an opportunity to meet him and have him here today. I am very proud to have him as our guest here today, Pastor Charlie Martin of the Indian Rocks Baptist Church in Largo, Florida.

THE TIME IS NOW FOR PRAYER IN OUR SCHOOLS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another school tragedy, another scapegoat. This time it is guns. Littleton is not just about guns, parents or discipline. Littleton is much to do with Congress.

That is right. A Congress that allows God to be banned from our schools while our schools can teach about